GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4538
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2002
SHORTAGE OF AYURVEDIC MEDICINES
A.K. PREMAJAM

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps taken by Union Government to strengthen the Ayurvedic System of medicine in the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that many of the CGHS (Ayurveda) dispensaries are not having adequate stocks of many of the medicines included in the authorized list;

(c) whether the Government have received any complaints about shortage of medicine in the CGHS Dispensary, North Avenue, Delhi; and

(d) if so, steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA)

(a): In order to popularise the Indian Systems of Medicine & Homoeopathy including Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani Systems, the Government in 1995 established an independent Department of ISM&H under the Ministry of Health and Family WelfareThe Department has already implemented schemes for the development and cultivation of medicinal plants, preparation of agro-techniques, upgradation of undergraduate/postgraduate institutions, standardisation of drugs, encouraging intra-mural and extra-mural research and dissemination of information and awareness building through information, education and communication (IEC).A Medicinal Plants Board has been established to give focused attention to development of the medicinal plant sector to provide good quality raw material for the manufacture of ISM drugs and products.

(b): Yes, Sir. A few of the Ayurvedic medicines are not available in the CGHS Ayurvedic dispensaries/units due to delay in finalisation of the Ayurvedic formulary for the year 2002-2004. The said formulary has since been finalised and supply orders for all listed medicines have been dispatched. The supplies in respect of CGHS Delhi have already commenced.

The beneficiaries are allowed to purchase Ayurvedic medicines from the open market which are not available in the CGHS dispensary/units in Delhi and the amount is reimbursed to the beneficiary.

In the case of CGHS Ayurvedic units outside Delhi,most of the Ayurvedic medicines prescribed by the doctors are available in the dispensary. The medicines which are not available in the dispensary are either procured through local chemists based upon individual prescription or alternatively, the beneficiaries are authorised to purchase the Ayurvedic medicines from the market and reimbursement is made to them.

(c): No Sir.

(d): In view of (c) above, the question does not arise